

History Detectives Bringing the Stories of African American Civil War Soldiers Alive on Ship Island



Project Title	History Detectives Bringing the Stories of African American Civil War Soldiers Alive on Ship Island
Project Summary	Bring history alive at Gulf Islands National Seashore by researching the lives of the 2nd Louisiana Native Guard who served on Ship Island during the Civil War. Park staff will use this information to share the seldom-heard stories of their bravery and sacrifice with park visitors.
Country	United States

Project Description

The 2nd Louisiana Native Guard was an African American regiment comprised of free and formally enslaved men who served on Ship Island (now part of Gulf Islands National Seashore) during the Civil War. Park staff are missing the details needed to bring these important stories to life. This project will support an intern to research the Native Guard using primary sources and other resources found outside the park. Matching funds are available to assist with research fees and/or travel to the Library of Congress and National Archives. Park staff will use this research to convey individual stories of Native Guard soldiers who played a vital role in the history of Ship Island, and enhance community pride and recognition of the deep and varied African American history in the area.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

Research

Writing

Additional Information

During the Civil War, Ship Island became a staging area for Union troops and a Confederate prison. The 2nd

Louisiana Native Guard arrived on the island in January of 1863 and were stationed there through the end of the war. Today, Ship Island is part of Gulf Islands National Seashore, which preserves coastal forts, barrier islands, and wilderness along the northern Gulf Coast. For general information about Gulf Islands National Seashore, visit www.nps.gov/gulfislands.

Language Requirements

None